

REMARKS**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 8-14 and 17-18 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claim 15 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 15-16 are pending. Claims 1-7 have been allowed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

ENTRY OF RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116:

Applicants request entry of this Rule 116 Response and Request for Reconsideration because:

- (a) at least certain of the rejected claims have been canceled thereby at least reducing the issues for appeal;
- (b) it is believed that the amendment of claim 15 puts this application into condition for allowance as suggested by the Examiner;
- (c) the amendment was not earlier presented because the Applicants believed in good faith that the cited prior art did not disclose the present invention as previously claimed;
- (d) the amendment of claim 15 should not entail any further search by the Examiner since no new features are being added or no new issues are being raised; and/or
- (e) the amendment does not significantly alter the scope of the claims and place the application at least into a better form for appeal. No new features or new issues are being raised;

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures sets forth in §714.12 that "[a]ny amendment that would place the case either in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal may be entered." (Underlining added for emphasis) Moreover, §714.13 sets forth that "[t]he Proposed Amendment should be given sufficient consideration to determine whether the claims are in condition for allowance and/or whether the issues on appeal are simplified." The Manual of Patent Examining Procedures further articulates that the reason for any non-entry should be explained expressly in the Advisory Action.

CHANGES TO CLAIMS:

With closer inspection, it is apparent that there was a software glitch or something that resulted in original claim 15 being reproduced incorrectly. Applicants' attorney apologizes for

the error. Claim 15 has been amended to recite the correct original claim 15, wherein original claim 15 is amended to recite claim 15 as presented in the Amendment/Response of July 31, 2006, and the term "that" has been added as suggested by the Examiner. Hence, amended claim 15 is submitted to be in allowable form. Since claim 16 depends from amended claim 15, claim 16 is also in allowable form.

Claims 8-14 and 17-18 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot, and further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited. At a minimum, this Amendment should be entered at least for purposes of Appeal as it either clarifies and/or narrows the issues for consideration by the Board.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited and possibly concluded by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss any such remaining issues.

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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